

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A universal joint, comprising:
an input shaft;
a pair of yoke arms provided for said input shaft;
an output shaft;
a pair of yoke arms provided for said output shaft;
a cross member having four spider arms, ~~each crossing another~~ configured in a cross pattern;
two bearings provided between the tip parts of two of said four spider arms, which are disposed oppositely to each other and two yoke arms of said input shaft; and
two bearings provided between the tip parts of the ~~the~~ other two of said four spider arms, which are disposed oppositely to each other and two yoke arms of said output shaft,
wherein said universal joint further includes a resistance applying mechanism ~~that~~ adapted to generate ~~the~~ the maximum resistance load in an oscillating movement of each of said two spider arms when axes of said two spider arms are included in a plane that includes the axes of both of said input and output shafts.
2. (Original) A universal joint according to claim 1,
wherein said resistance applying mechanism is configured so that at least one of said bearings has a resistance load that varies in accordance with an oscillating angle.
3. (Original) A universal joint according to claim 2,
wherein said bearing used as said resistance applying mechanism is formed with a substantially oval yoke hole formed in said yoke arm and a substantially oval tip part of said spider arm.

4. (Original) A universal joint according to claim 3,
wherein a bearing cup is press-fit in said substantially oval yoke hole formed in said yoke arm and a plurality of needles are provided between the inner surface of this bearing cup and said substantially oval tip part of said spider arm.

5. (Currently Amended) A universal joint according to claim 1,
wherein said resistance applying mechanism ~~is configured by~~ includes a cam surface formed at an end surface of said spider arm ~~and an engaging projection provided in said yoke arm and coming in contact with said cam surface.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A universal joint according to claim 5,
wherein a bearing ~~[[cut]]~~ cup is press-fit in a circular yoke hole formed in said yoke arm and ~~a plurality of needles are provided between the inner surface of said bearing cup and a circular tip part of said spider arm, and said engaging projection is formed at the bottom of said bearing cup~~ said bearing cup includes an engaging projection for coming in contact with said cam surface.

7. (Original) A universal joint according to any of claims 1 to 6,
wherein said resistance applying mechanism is provided at either of said input shaft side or output shaft side.

8. (Original) A universal joint according to any of claims 1 to 6,
wherein said resistance applying mechanism is provided at both of said input shaft and output shaft sides.

9. (Currently Amended) A steering device for vehicle, wherein the universal joint according to any of claims 1 to 6 is provided between a steering column and a steering mechanism ~~at the side of~~ the vehicle ~~[[body]]~~.

10. (Previously Presented) A universal joint assembly for vehicle,
including two universal joints configured according to any of claims 1 to 6 and an intermediate shaft:

wherein both of said two universal joints have crossing angles that are substantially equal; and

said intermediate shaft is connected to the output shaft of one of said universal joints and the input shaft of the other.

11. (Currently Amended) A steering device for vehicle, wherein the universal joint according to claim 7 is provided between a steering column and a steering mechanism ~~at the side of the~~ vehicle [[body]].

12. (Currently Amended) A steering device for vehicle, wherein the universal joint according to claim 8 is provided between a steering column and a steering mechanism ~~at the side of the~~ vehicle [[body]].

13. (Previously Presented) A universal joint assembly for vehicle according to claim 10,

wherein said resistance applying mechanism for at least one of said two universal joints is provided at either of said input shaft side or output shaft side.

14. (Previously Presented) A universal joint assembly for vehicle according to claim 10,

wherein said resistance applying mechanism for at least one of said two universal joints is provided at both of said input shaft and output shaft sides.

15. (New) A universal joint according to claim 6,
wherein said bearing cup includes a plurality of needles provided between the inner surface of said bearing cup and a tip part of said spider arm, and said engaging projection is formed at the bottom of said bearing cup.

16. (New) A universal joint, comprising:
an input shaft;
a pair of yoke arms provided on said input shaft;
an output shaft;
a pair of yoke arms provided on said output shaft;

a cross member having four spider arms, configured in a cross pattern;

a first pair of bearings, each bearing being provided on a respective arm of said yoke arms of said input shaft, each bearing engaging a tip part of a corresponding one of said spider arms;

a second pair of bearings, each bearing being provided on a respective arm of said yoke arms of said output shaft, each bearing engaging a tip part of a corresponding one of said spider arms; and

a resistance applying mechanism configured to generate a resistance between said cross member and at least one of said yoke arms to resist an oscillating movement of said cross member, said resistance applying mechanism being configured to generate a maximum resistance when axes of two of said spider arms are included in a plane that includes the axes of both of said input and output shafts.

17. (New) A universal joint according to claim 16,
wherein said resistance applying mechanism is configured by at least one of said bearings being formed with a substantially oval yoke hole in said yoke arm and a substantially oval tip part of said spider arm.

18. (New) A universal joint according to claim 16,
wherein said resistance applying mechanism is configured by at least one of said bearings being formed with a cam surface and an engaging projection.